

OPINION 1681

Vatellus Aubé, [1837] (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Vatellus* Aubé, [1837] (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy of the replaced nominal genus *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835 *Hydroporus tarsatus* Laporte, 1835, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *tarsatus* Laporte, 1835, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus tarsatus* (specific name of the type species of *Vatellus* Aubé, [1837]), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Leucorea* Laporte, 1835, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2742

An application for the conservation of *Vatellus* Aubé, [1837] was received from Dr Anders N. Nilsson (*University of Umeå, Umeå, Sweden*) on 25 September 1989. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 36–37 (March 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

It was noted on the voting paper that proposals (2) and (3) in BZN 48: 37, para. 7 should be amended to read as above.

It was also noted that the dates of publication of Aubé's ([1836–1838]) work *Hydrocanthares* were given by Mèquignon in a footnote in Guignot (1931–1933, pp. 547–548). The date 1837 is given for pp. 65–224, which included the name *Vatellus* (p. 221).

Guignot, F. 1931–1933. *Les Hydrocanthares de France*. xv, 1057 pp. Douladoure, Toulouse.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 36–37, with the above amendments to (2) and (3). At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 26: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 3: Bouchet, Lehtinen and Thompson.

Dupuis commented that he reluctantly voted in favour, in consideration of the usage of *Vatellus*; it was clear that Aubé had had no objective reason (not even that of conditional proposal of the name) to reject *Leucorea*, and that the sentence used by the aristocratic Laporte in establishing the genus (quoted in para. 1 of the application) was merely an 'understatement' resulting from politeness, and was typical of the period. Lehtinen commented that since Aubé was aware of Laporte's earlier name with the

same type species, disregard for priority, the basic principle of nomenclature, could not be supported.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Leucorea Laporte, 1835, *Études entomologiques*, part 1 (Carnassiers), p. 106.

tarsatus, *Hydroporus*, Laporte, 1835, *Études entomologiques*, part 1 (Carnassiers), p. 106.

Vatellus Aubé, [1837], *Hydrocanthares*. In Dejean, P.F.M.A. (Ed.), *Iconographie et histoire naturelle des coléoptères d'Europe*, vol. 5, p. 221.